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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/891,638

06/26/2001

Nathan E. Perry

2837

49584

7590

05/23/2006

LEE & HAYES, PLLC
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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/891,638

Applicant(s)

PERRY, NATHAN E.

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's RCE and amendment filed on March 21, 2006 has been entered. Claims 1, 11, and 22 have been amended. Claims 15-21 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-14 and 22-24 are now pending in this application, with claims 1, 11, and 22 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al (US 5,329,578), in view of La Porta et al (US 5,563,939), in view of Clarke et al (US 5,802,157), and further in view of Cox et al (US 6,871,082).
3. In regards to claims 1, 5, 9, 10, and 23, Brennan discloses a method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number (e.g., CLID), said method comprising: obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication; obtaining a called line identification number for said communication; looking for said calling line identification number in a

data store (See Fig. 1b, database 24, and callers list 26) to determine data associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked (See col. 2 lines 17-27, col. 3 lines 62-68, col. 11 lines 24-46, and col. 13 lines 63-67). Brennan, however, does not disclose receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line from a calling line, said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service. La Porta, however, does disclose receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line (See Fig. 1 and telephone set 112) from a calling line (See Fig. 1 and telephone set 101), said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service (See col. 6 lines 26-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within the method, as a way of allowing a subscriber/user to be able to block outgoing calls to specific destinations/numbers. However, neither Brennan, nor La Porta, disclose activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time and de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time. Clarke, however, does disclose activating (e.g. turning on the call block service according to schedule) the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time (e.g., 10 PM) and deactivating (e.g., turning off the call block service according to schedule) the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time (e.g. 6 AM) (See col. 1-2 lines 66-17 and col. 6 lines 1-12). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within the method, as a way of allowing a subscriber/user to be able to block outgoing calls

during specific times and days. However, neither Brennan, nor La Porta, nor Clarke, disclose overriding the outgoing call blocking service for at least a second single outgoing communication from the calling line by entering an override code. Cox, however, does disclose overriding the outgoing call blocking service for at least a second single outgoing communication from the calling line by entering an override code (e.g., access code) (See col. 3 lines 28-40 and col. 7 lines 46-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within the system, as a way of allowing an authorized user to place an outgoing call on a line that may have a call blocking service, while preventing an unauthorized user from making incorrect access attempts on the line (See Abstract of Cox).

4. In regards to claims 2 and 24, Clarke discloses the method, further comprising completing the call if the data associated with the calling line identification number does not indicate that calls to the called line are to be blocked (See col. 5 lines 12-20).

5. In regards to claims 3 and 8, Clarke discloses the method, further comprising always completing a call to an emergency call line (See col. 5 lines 48-51).

6. In regards to claims 4 and 7, Brennan discloses the method, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked (See 5 lines 15-18).

7. In regards to claim 6, Brennan discloses the method, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls (See col. 6 lines 47-51).

8. In regards to claims 11 and 22, La Porta discloses the method of activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising: receiving a predetermined access code from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line; prompting a caller to provide data concerning calls to be blocked; receiving the provided data; storing said data in a data store associated with the call blocking service (See col. 6 lines 19-42); and enabling the subscriber to prohibit special feature calls (e.g., 900 number calls) from being placed from the calling line (See col. 6 lines 29-45). Clarke discloses activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day (See col. 1-2 lines 66-17 and col. 6 lines 1-12). Brennan discloses enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing long-distance call from being placed from the calling line (See col. 5 lines 15-18). Brennan discloses enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified area code (See col. 5 lines 15-18). Clarke discloses enabling the subscriber to prohibit outgoing calls to at least one specified telephone number (See col. 5 lines 46-48). Clarke discloses enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified local telephone number (See col. 5 lines 43-46). Clarke discloses enabling the subscriber to allow outgoing calls only to at least one specified telephone number (e.g., 911) (See col. 5 lines 48-51).

9. In regards to claims 12, 13, and 14, Cox discloses the method, further comprising: prompting the caller for an authorization code (e.g., access code); and comparing the received authorization code with a stored authorization code for the calling line identification number (See col. 3 lines 28-40).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 and 22-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cox et al (US 6,256,515) teach a call management system for wireless telephones. Swan et al (US 6,134,320) teach a telecommunications functions management system providing selective alerting based on caller identifier.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wing Chan', written in a cursive style.

WING CHAN
SENIOR PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Thjuan P. Knowlin